



CITY OF AKRON, OHIO
POLICE DIVISION
MICHAEL T. MATULAVICH, CHIEF OF POLICE

NUMBER P-2008-041	EFFECTIVE DATE March 31, 2008	RESCINDS P-2005-041 Issued 7-11-05
SUBJECT Responding to In Progress Robbery and Burglary Calls Procedure		ISSUING AUTHORITY Chief Michael T. Matulavich

I. POLICY

Officer response to in progress robbery and burglary calls shall be expeditious. However, safety shall not be compromised in order to reduce response time. Coordination and information sharing techniques shall be utilized to increase the likelihood of bringing the situation to a safe, successful resolution.

II. PROCEDURE

A. RESPONDING TO ANY IN PROGRESS CALLS

1. When a robbery, burglary, or duress alarm is broadcast, it shall be assumed that a crime is in progress and that there may be more than one suspect. Never consider it a false alarm or call until proven so by a careful and thorough investigation of the premises.
2. The officer initially dispatched will respond to the scene and will be responsible for completing all necessary reports, unless relieved by a supervisor or another responding officer. In the event the initial responding officer is delayed, another officer shall be assigned to respond to the scene.
3. Officers should never sacrifice safety for a few seconds of response time.
4. Responding officers should coordinate their approach to the scene and be observant for suspicious vehicles and pedestrians.
5. Ideally, the approach and arrival of responding units should be accomplished in a manner that prevents a possible hostage situation:
 - a. The emergency lights and siren should be used sparingly in close proximity to the scene.
 - b. Headlights should be turned off when approaching the scene, remembering that traffic safety must be considered.
 - c. The police vehicle should be parked in a position that is out of direct view of the scene, if practical.

B. RESPONDING TO IN PROGRESS ROBBERY CALLS – INITIAL ARRIVING
OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Never initially reveal the presence of police.
2. Take a position of cover, observe, and obtain as much information as possible.
3. Suggest alternate response routes if specific routes to the location pose a delay or threat.
4. Ensure that all exit points from the scene are covered with additional police personnel.
5. If a cautious approach to the premises confirms a robbery in progress, the officer should:
 - a. Provide the dispatcher with any pertinent information to include the number and physical description of suspects, keeping in mind any threat to the victim or an obvious need for immediate medical attention.
 - b. Allow the suspects to exit the premises before making any attempt to effect an arrest. This reduces the possibility of an incident escalating into a hostage situation.
6. Make the determination to request or cancel any additional officers.
7. Secure the crime scene before taking any action.
8. After the scene is secure, action should be taken based on the following priorities:
 - a. Administer any medical aid if necessary.
 - b. Apprehend suspects.
 - c. Identify witnesses and victims.
 - d. Preserve the scene.
 - e. Notify dispatcher or supervisor of the need for additional resources; i.e., K-9 Unit, Crime Scene Unit, etc.

C. RESPONDING TO IN PROGRESS BURGLARY CALLS – INITIAL ARRIVING
OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Direct the initial activities.
2. Advise the dispatcher which location you will cover.
3. Advise the dispatcher where additional coverage is needed.

4. Wait for back up to arrive to secure the perimeter before searching the interior of a premise. The fact that an examination of the outside of the building fails to disclose a means of entrance does not preclude the presence of someone inside.
5. Ensure that a systematic search of the building is performed.
 - a. Assignments shall be made by the ranking officer on the scene. Provisions should be made to ensure communications between all officers during any search. Take time to be safe.
 - b. Ordinarily the search will be conducted from the bottom up, one floor at a time. Make sure the suspects cannot double back into an area already searched.
 - c. Turn on the lights, if possible. When using a flashlight, remember the light becomes a target. Hold the flashlight away from your body.
 - d. Shotguns are very effective weapons but highly dangerous inside a building. Therefore, they will normally be deployed outside unless urgently needed inside.
6. If at any time it is determined that a suspect is inside a premise, the preferred course of apprehension is:
 - a. Announce the presence of police and order the suspect to come out.
 - b. Request the aid of available K-9 units for a building search.

By Order Of,

Michael T. Matulavich

Michael T. Matulavich
Chief of Police

Date March 10, 2008